UNITED NATIONS

November 1990

Division of Narcotic Drugs
P.O. Box 500, 1400-Vienna Austria

information letter

Aruba, China Host HONLEA Meetings

High-level officials from 29 countries participated in the Third Meeting of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting, organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, was held in Aruba from 24 to 28 September 1990.

The Minister of Justice of Aruba, Hendrick S. Croes, was elected Chairman. Vice-Chairmen were Gonzalo Torrico (Bolivia), Maric[illegible]va (Mexico), Arturo Pellet Lac[illegible]gentina). Leslie D. Harper (Jamaica) served as Rapporteur.

The opening session was attended by the Acting Governor and the Prime Minister of Aruba as well as other senior government officials. The meeting was opened on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Francisco Ramos-Galino.

Participants agreed on a number of recommendations addressed to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

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Measures to further curb illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were the focus of the 15th HONLEA meeting for Asia and the Pacific held at Beijing from 15 to 19 October 1990.

Organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the meeting recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of a draft resolution, requesting that the development of a training strategy for law enforcement officers be given high priority.

It also recommended to the Commission the adoption of a draft resolution in which the Economic and Social Council would request the Secretary-General to urgently appoint a full-time liaison officer for the region's drug control-related activities.

Participants met in different workshops which made a series of recom-

continued on page 5

Against illicit traffic

1988 Convention Enters into Force

Less than two years after its adoption by a conference of plenipotentiaries, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances entered into force on 11 November 1990. As per its provisions, the 1988 Convention entered into force on the ninetieth day after the deposit with the United Nations Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification. The Government of Spain deposited its instrument of ratification on 13 August 1990.

Twenty-six States have ratified or acceded to the 1988 Convention, which was adopted by consensus by 106 States at a plenipotentiary conference held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988. By 20 December 1989, the closing date for signature, 89 States and one regional economic organization had signed the 1988 Convention.

The rapid entry into force illustrates the determination of the international community to strengthen the drug control system with a more potent instrument. A special campaign for treaty adherence was launched by the Division of Narcotic Drugs in April 1990.

The action, which was taken at the request of the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, aimed at increasing the number of States ratifying or acceding to the 1988 Convention to speed up its entry into force.

The campaign also encouraged further adherence to the earlier treaties already in force, i.e. the Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the

continued on page 3

GA Addresses Drug Control Items

Delegates at the 45th session of the General Assembly addressing international drug control will have before them a number of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.

The report on the "Enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control" is contained in document A/45/652. The report of the expert group on this matter is in document A/45/652/Add.1.

The report on the Global Programme of Action is in document A/45/536. The report on the 1988 Convention has been issued as document A/45/495. The Secretary-General's report on international co-operation in drug abuse control, including contributions from 19 entities and specialized agencies has appeared as document A/45/542.

The report on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking pursuant to GA resolution 44/142 is in document A/45/535.

Inside

Council Elects INCB Members . 2
UNFDAC Activities 2
INCB 48th Session 3
WHO New Programme 3
Legal Assistance at DND 4
DND Expert Group Meeting 5
DND Precursors Kit 6
Inter-agency Meeting 6
Calendar of Events 7

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Council Elects Two INCB Members

The Economic and Social Council elected on 25 July 1990 by secret ballot two new members of the International Narcotics Control Board following the resignation of Nikolai Barkov (USSR) and the death of Professor Paul Reuter (France) whose terms were to expire in March 1992.

The two new members are Jean-Pierre Queneudec (France) and Valeri Bulaev (USSR). Their term, which began on the date of election (25 July 1990), is to expire on 1 March 1992.

The Board consists of 13 members, elected by the Council on the basis of their competence, impartiality and desinterestedness, who serve in their personal capacities. Three members of the Board are elected from among candidates nominated by the World Health Organization, and ten from among those nominated by United Nations Member States and by non-Member States that are Parties to drug control treaties.

UNFDAC Executive Director Holds Talks With Bolivian, Colombian Presidents

In September 1990, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, Giuseppe di Gennaro, held high-level talks with Jaime Paz Zamora and Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, respectively Presidents of Bolivia and Colombia.

In Bolivia, Mr. di Gennaro stressed UNFDAC's plans for a regional approach to drug abuse control and called upon Bolivia to join forces in a common effort with its Andean neighbours.

The mission to Bolivia so achieved the finalization of a project to establish specialized courts for cases involving controlled substances. Mr. di Gennaro and Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde signed a US$ 2 million project document.

A second project approved during the Executive Director's visit seeks to prevent crime and drug abuse among street children in La Paz. The project includes the provision of counselling, training and the creation of employment opportunities.

Mr. di Gennaro's talks with the President of Colombia focused on UNFDAC's new programme for Colombia totalling US$ 35 million. The President spoke of the high price being paid by his countrymen in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and called for more international solidarity to support his Government's efforts. Colombia's war against the drug abuse phenomenon in all its manifestations was being waged, he said, not only to protect the national interest but also, ultimately, for the benefit of the whole international community.

Mr. di Gennaro also met with Colombia's First Lady, Ana Milena de Gaviria, who heads a team concerned with family and youth issues. During the meeting, the First Lady discussed possible co-operation with UNFDAC in carrying out programmes aimed in particular at protecting young people at risk in urban centres, such as Medellín and Bogotá.

The current membership of the International Narcotics Control Board is pictured at its October 1990 session as follows (standing from left to right): Professor Cai Zhi-Ji (China), Dr. Huáscar Cajías Kauffmann (Bolivia), Mr. Sirad Atmodjo (Indonesia), Professor S. Oguz Kayaalp (Turkey), Professor Abdullahi S. Elmi (Somalia), Dr. Valeri Bulaev (USSR), General Mohammed Abbas Mansour (Egypt), Dr. Oskar Schröder (Germany), Dr. Tulio Velasquez-Quevedo (Peru), Professor Jean-Pierre Queneudec (France) and Mr. M.V.N. Rao (India). Seated from left to right are: Dr. Mohsen Kchouk (Tunisia), Vice-President, Miss Betty Gough (USA), President, and Mrs. Liselotte Waldheim-Natural (Austria), the newly-appointed Secretary of the INCB, who took up her functions on 15 August 1990.

INCB Examines Control of Precursors

At its 48th session held from 8 to 25 October 1990, the International Narcotics Control Board considered measures to ensure the execution of the provisions of the international drug control treaties and to improve compliance. The treaties are the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, that Convention as amended by a Protocol in 1972, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The Board paid particular attention to its role in the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, which deals with the control of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

It also reviewed its extrabudgetary programmes, particularly its programme of assistance to African States for the establishment of legislative and administrative structures to enable national compliance with the international drug control treaties.

The Board studied the demand for and supply of opiates for medical needs and reviewed annual estimates of requirements of narcotic drugs, opium production and manufacture of synthetic drugs for 1991, as well as information from some 200 countries and territories on their use, production and manufacture in 1989. The estimates were finalized by the Standing Committee on Estimates which met from 22 to 24 October 1990.

The agenda also included the supervision of the movement of psychotropic substances for licit requirements, as well as the movement of substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

During the session, the Board examined its draft report for 1990 which, together with its technical supplements, will be ready for distribution to Governments before the end of the year. It will be presented through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991. The report is to be issued as document E/INCB/1990/1.

Text submitted by the INCB secretariat.

WHO Establishes New Programme on Substance Abuse

To fight what in a large number of countries represents the most serious peacetime threat to well-being in this century, the World Health Organization (WHO) has set up a new Programme on Substance Abuse.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima announced the appointment of Hans Emblad (Sweden) as Director of the new Programme effective 1 September 1990.

Mr. Emblad has held several important positions in the United Nations system, including as Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Under the new Programme a global survey of the drug abuse situation will be initiated; leadership will be provided in the related efforts of other programmes within WHO, including those of its six Regional Offices; the programmes of the ministries of health of WHO's 166 Member States will be supported; and collaboration will be intensified with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations throughout the world concerned with substance abuse.

"Large parts of the world's inner cities are being converted into zones of despair, terror and squalor", Dr. Nakajima said. "Each day there are thousands of new addicts. With every hour, more and more young people are affected. By sharing injection needles, millions are being exposed to the threat of infection with the virus that causes AIDS. We are seeing with horror more and more infants born addicted to drugs."

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 1990, the new Programme, in collaboration with Member States, is to carry out a range of activities including: the intensification of efforts to prevent the spread of substance abuse in individuals, families, communities and countries; the improvement of the effectiveness of existing treatment programmes, and the development of new approaches to treatment where needed; the integration of health components into development programmes set up to reduce the supply of narcotic drugs.

1988 Convention

from page 1

1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Highlights of the new Convention

The 1988 Convention promotes international co-operation to more effectively address the various aspects of illicit drug trafficking. One of the innovative provisions of the 34-article Convention deals with the tracing, freezing and confiscation of proceeds and property derived from drug trafficking. To that effect, courts are empowered to make available or seize bank, financial or commercial records. Bank secrecy cannot be invoked in such cases.

The Convention bars all havens to drug traffickers who often avoid prosecution simply by moving from one jurisdiction to another. This can be achieved particularly through the Convention's provisions for: extradition of major drug traffickers; mutual legal assistance between States on drug-related investigations; and the transfer of proceedings for criminal prosecution.

Another significant and innovative landmark is the commitment of Parties to eliminate or reduce illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

In response to requests by United Nations governing bodies, many States have taken measures to bring their national legislation in line with the spirit and scope of the new Convention pending its entry into force. In this respect, the Division has been developing projects to assist States to become Parties to the 1988 Convention or to earlier drug control treaties and to implement them. The Division has also been assisting States, upon request, to draft new legislation or amend existing laws.

As of 12 November 1990, the following had ratified or acceded to the 1988 Convention: **Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Jordan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Qatar, Spain, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.**

READEX FICHE

LEGAL ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

WHAT LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE ?

The Division of Narcotic Drugs has two legal experts available to help requesting States become party to and give effect to the United Nations drug abuse control conventions, particularly the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Assistance includes:

- ***Advice on the nature and extent of obligations under the conventions.***
- ***Review and evaluation of drug abuse control legislation and infrastructures.***
- ***Advice on any legislative or administrative measures to implement the conventions or enhance their effectiveness.***
- ***Advice on implementation measures adopted by other countries with similar legal concepts and systems (including provision of relevant legislation).***
- ***Provision of expert consultants to help prepare any necessary legislative drafting instructions or to draft the legislation itself.***
- ***Advice and assistance in elaborating suitable arrangements to strengthen domestic, regional and inter-regional drug abuse control capacity (e.g. on matters such as confiscation, extradition, mutual legal assistance, controlled delivery, etc).***
- ***Advice on the resolution of particular implementation problems arising.***
- ***Advice on ratification or accession procedures and documentation.***

Assistance is , of course, not limited to this list. The nature and extent of assistance is tailored to meet the precise needs of each requesting country.

Legal assistance may be obtained through a letter from the Government concerned to the Director of the Division at the following address:

UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A - 1400 Vienna (Austria)
Tel. (43-1) 21131/4114
Telex 135612 unations vienna
Fax 23156

HONLEA Meetings

from page 1

mendations. Attending were senior officials from 24 countries and territories from the Asia and Pacific region, as well as observers from 10 States outside the region, four intergovernmental organizations and two United Nations drug-related entities.

Gu Yingqi (People's Republic of China) served as Chairman of the meeting; Peter John Lamb (Australia), Yoo Chang-Jong (Republic of Korea) and Dalbir Singh (India) as Vice-Chairmen; and Lionel Stevens (New Zealand) as Rapporteur.

The reports of the Aruba and China meetings, which will appear as documents E/CN.7/1991/3 and E/CN.7/1991/4 respectively, will be before the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled to be held at Vienna from 30 January to 8 February 1991.

Experts Study Economic, Social Consequences Of Illicit Drug Trafficking

An intergovernmental group of 17 experts met at Vienna from 21 to 25 May 1990 and from 9 to 20 July 1990 to study the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs in accordance with a request by the General Assembly.

The expert group recommended, among other things, that the Secretary-General develop an annual estimate of the illicit drug situation on a world-wide basis. Such an estimate would include information on the production of illicit drugs, production prices value added at different stages of trafficking, cash flow, money laundering, confiscation and drug-related criminal activities as well as on the extent of and trends in drug abuse. This would better enable the United Nations to determine the social and economic impact of drug trafficking and abuse world-wide.

The group also recommended that DND and UNFDAC, in co-operation with other international bodies and Member States, conduct regular analytical studies on the social and economic effects of the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs in order to obtain better information for policy-making and the formulation of work programmes at various levels.

In all the group made 18 recommendations, including a call for further expert groups or studies (e.g. on the effectiveness of existing policies and programmes and the link between illicit trafficking and external debt) as well as several recommendations to prevent the use of the banking system and international financial system for the "laundering" of the proceeds of illicit trafficking.

The recommendations of the expert group meeting are to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

Several high-level government officials attended the opening session of the Third Meeting of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean in Oranjestaad Aruba. Pictured (from left to right) are: the President of the Legislative Parliament; the Prime Minister, H.E. Nelson Oduber; Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, who represented the Secretary-General; the Minister of Justice, Hendrik S. Croes, who chaired the HONLEA Meeting; the Acting Governor, Maximo Croes; the Commissioner of Police, Lucas Rasmijn; and Luis Mañueco-Jenkins, Chief, Demand Reduction, Co-ordination and External Relations Section, Division of Narcotic Drugs, who served as Secretary of the HONLEA Meeting.

Precursors Identification Kit Developed

A kit containing colour reagents for the presumptive identification of the most important presursors (chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs) has been developed, for the first time, by the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

The kit is tailored for the identification of the following substances: anthranilic acid, ergotamine, ergometrine, lysergic acid, phenyl-2-propanone, piperidine, ephedrine and norephedrine.

The development of this kit stems from requests made by the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The kit is one of the new outputs of the Division's Laboratory Section designed to assist countries in the implementation of the 1988 Convention.

Switzerland

Students' Group Calls for A Drug-free Society

On the occasion of the third International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), the "Studentenforum an der Universität Zürich" (SFU) as done last year organized a panel discussion in co-operation with the Vienna-based United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs.

Ten experts from Germany and Switzerland made special presentations before an audience of 860. Participants agreed on the urgent need to achieve a drug-free society and to reject all types of drugs. They condemned permissive attitudes concerning the use of marihuana which, they believed, may lead to addiction. Prevention and therapeutic methods used in Sweden were cited as examples to be followed by other communities.

The Division was represented by H.J. Schickert who outlined the international community's action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking under the aegis of the United Nations.

The SFU is an initiative of students of the University of Zürich which is undertaking a drug awareness campaign in Switzerland in co-operation with other non-governmental organizations and private groups.

Inter-agency Meeting Held

At the September 1990 inter-agency meeting in Geneva, ILO Deputy Director-General, D. Taylor (centre), stressed the need to pool all resources to curtail both the supply of and the demand for illicit drugs. Also pictured are (from left to right): Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs; Margaret J. Anstee, UNOV Director-General, and Jack Peter Martin, Director of the ILO Relations and Meetings Department.

An Inter-agency co-ordination meeting was held at the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva, from 12 to 14 September 1990. Twelve United Nations entities and organizations were represented.

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, in her capacity as Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control-related activities, chaired the meeting. She noted that the importance of the United Nations system's work in drug abuse control had again been recognized at various intergovernmental fora.

Participants agreed on proposals to amend the United Nations system-wide plan on drug abuse control and outlined its already demonstrated practical value.

The meeting expressed regret that, despite the Secretary-General's personal appeal at the special General Assembly session in February 1990, the required increases in resources and allocations for drug abuse control had not been forthcoming. Special attention was given to the area of reduction of illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The ILO made a special presentation on its drug abuse control programmes which had been intensified in recent years.

The report of the Inter-agency meeting has been issued as document ACC/1990/PG/7.

NGO Meeting Stresses Family's Role In Drug Abuse Prevention

Parents' role in the prevention and reduction of drug abuse was the focus of a special meeting held on 26 June 1990 at Vienna to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The meeting was organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs in co-operation with the UN Division of Narcotic Drugs.

Opening remarks were made by the UNOV Director-General. Key note speakers from Austria, Germany and Italy dealt with the following subjects: the task of parents and teachers concerning drug abuse prevention; difficulties in recognizing drug problems with "children"; and the role of the family in solving drug-related problems.

Participants included parents of students from selected Viennese high schools. The Division was represented by Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière, Deputy-Director.

Other activities included a drug awareness campaign in Austrian high schools where 1,000 teachers lectured on the drug abuse phenomenon and distributed information material, including a special poster prepared by the Division.

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the Division's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing co-ordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1990

United Nations System

19-23 November	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe.	Moscow
1 December	**World AIDS Day.**	
10-14 December	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Advisory Expert Group Meeting on the Review of UN Manual and Guidelines for Drug Law Enforcement Training.	Vienna

Intergovernmental Organizations

12-23 November	ICPO-Interpol: 16th Training Seminar for Narcotics Control Bureau Officials.	Lyon, France
22-28 November	Colombo Plan Bureau: 33rd Colombo Plan Consultative Committee Meeting.	Bangkok
3-6 December	South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP): 12th Conference of Member States.	Caracas
5-7 December	ICPO-Interpol: 9th Symposium for Heads of Police Colleges.	Lyon, France

Non-governmental Organizations

11-16 November	International Federation of Non-Government Organisations (IFNGO): 12th Annual Conference.	Singapore

1991

United Nations System

28 - 29 January	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, 28th session.	Vienna
30 January - 8 February	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 34th regular session.	Vienna
11 February	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Vienna

8-12 April	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (HONLEA).	Nairobi
15-20 April	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of States Parties to the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.	Vienna
27 May-7 June	International Narcotics Control Board, 49th session.	Vienna
26 June	**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.**	
2nd quarter	Division of Narcotic Drugs: EGM on the Role of the Forensic Chemistry Laboratory in Clandestine Investigations and in the Control of Precursors and Chemicals.	To be determined
3rd quarter	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Consultative Meeting on International Quality Control Programme for National Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratories.	To be determined
11-13 September	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	London
October (5 days)	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean (HONLEA).	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
7-25 October	International Narcotics Control Board, 50th session.	Vienna
November (5 days)	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA).	To be determined

Intergovernmental Organizations

January	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD): Seminar-Workshop on the Traffic of Precursors and Essential Chemicals in the Caribbean Region.	San Juan

Non-governmental Organizations

12-15 January	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): National Conference on Drug Abuse: Research and Practice.	Washington, D.C.
10-16 March	National Parents' Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE): 1991 PRIDE World Drug Conference.	Nashville, U.S.A.
18-23 August	World Federation of Mental Health: World Congress of Mental Health.	Mexico City
1-5 September	International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency: 8th ICPA Congress.	Kuala Lumpur
22-27 September	World Federation of Therapeutic Communities: 14th World Conference of Therapeutic Communities - "Drugs and Society to the Year 2000".	Montreal
28 October - 1 November	International Committee on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety/UNFDAC: International Workshop on Drugs and Driving.	Padova, Italy